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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/653,988	09/01/2000	Takashi Matsumoto	50032-162	6825

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MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY
600 13TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

SHAPIRO, JEFFERY A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3653

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SK

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/653,988	MATSUMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jeffrey A. Shapiro	3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in Application No. 09/653,988, filed on 09/01/00.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 2 and 3 are objected to because of the following informalities: It is suggested that the two sorting units be referred to as "a first sorting unit" and a second sorting unit" instead of "a storing unit" and "a storing device" so as to minimize confusion. Generally, the claims and the specification appear to have various informalities and idiomatic language which, if changed, will aid in readability and understanding. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Jones et al. Jones et al discloses the following.

As described in Claims 1, 2 and 5;

1. an inserting aperture (14), provided at an upper part of a main body;

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2. a sorting unit (32) comprising a coin discriminating device;
3. a coin storing unit (40), located under said sorting unit;
4. a holding unit (52, 54, 56 or 402a-f) provided between said coin storing unit and said sorting unit;
5. a coin repayment unit (note, for example, path (410) which leads to outlet (22)), provided at a lower part of said main body;

As described in Claim 2;

6. said coin dispensing apparatus has a holding cylinder provided in said holding unit (see figure 5);
7. a wiper provided at a lower part of said holding cylinder (see col. 8, lines 27-35, which discusses a plunger device for removing coins in said cylinders);
8. a second sorting device provided under said wiper; (See col. 8, lines 24-27, noting that it would be obvious to provide a second sorting device such as (260), as described in figure 15, so as to divert the output of said cylinders to a target requiring coins, such as outlet (22) or (414). Note also that it would appear to be inherent that a diverter mechanism, such as (260) would be required to direct coins to outlets (22 or 414).

As described in Claims 3 and 5;

9. a coin storing passage (256) connected with said coin storing unit;
10. a repayment passage (410) connected with said coin repayment unit;

11. a damper (260) (damper is construed to be a diverter) provided in said sorting device;

As described in Claims 4 and 7;

12. said coins include several types of coins;

As described in Claim 6;

13. operation of said receiving member is linked with said wiper in storing coins in said storing unit, and is not linked with said wiper in sweeping coins to said coin repayment unit; (Note that it appears that operation of the wiper, or plunger type mechanism is linked to said receiving member where synchronization is required between said receiving member and said wiper.)

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Takatoshi et al, Suzuki et al, Hayashi et al, Takeda et al, Orton et al, Prumm (US 4,234,072 and US 3,916,922), Furukawa and Bjork are cited as examples of coin handling equipment having coin diverters and sorters.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey A. Shapiro whose telephone number is (703)308-3423. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald P. Walsh can be reached on (703)306-4173. The fax phone

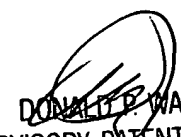
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numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-2571 for regular communications and (703)308-2571 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1113.



Jeffrey A. Shapiro
Patent Examiner,
Art Unit 3653



DONALD P. WALSH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

May 28, 2002